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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/540,541

09/28/2006

Kris Vandermeulen

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EXAMINER

LIANG, LEONARD S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/20/2010

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/540,541	<b>Applicant(s)</b> VANDERMEULEN, KRIS	
	<b>Examiner</b> LEONARD S. LIANG	<b>Art Unit</b> 2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 110-138 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 115-121, 126, 128, 129, 131 and 134-136 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 110-114, 122-125, 127, 130, 132, 133, 137 and 138 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/24/05; 11/05/08; 11/11/08; 03/30/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

In the response to election/restriction filed on 06/01/10, the applicant elected Group I, Claims 110-114, 122-125, 127, 130, 132-133, and 137-138 with traverse. The applicant argues, "While the claims of both Groups I and II are apparatus claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in Group II are claiming a product that corresponds to the product recited in Group I, namely a printer ... that corresponds to a cassette ... As such, it is believed that there would not be a serious burden ... to consider both Groups of claims in a single application."

There would be a serious burden to consider both groups of claims in a single application because the classification for one group is different than the classification for the other group. Not only are the primary search areas for the two groups in different sub-classes, they are in different classes altogether. Although the applicant has presented the invention in the context of printing, many references in the proper search area are directed only to cassettes and not to printing. The applicant will note that many of the below cited references do not mention printing at all. For this reason, the previous restriction requirement is maintained and hereby made final. All non-elected claims are withdrawn from consideration.

### ***Specification and Drawings***

The lengthy specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's

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cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification and drawings. Specifically, the applicant is requested to match all references in the drawings to the references in the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

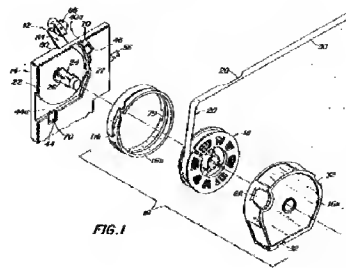
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 110-112, 127, and 132 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bunting (US Pat 3394901).

Bunting discloses:

- {claim 110} a cassette for a recording medium (figure 1), comprising an upper casing (figure 1, reference 16a) and a lower casing (figure 1, reference 22), a spool for holding a roll of recording medium and disposed between the upper and lower casings (figure 1, reference 24), and a side casing for enclosing the spool and joining the upper and lower casings (figure 1, reference 16b), wherein the side casing is fitted to at least one of the upper and lower casings by press-fit or snap-fit connections (column 3, lines 8-30; note lines 21-22 disclose "snap-fits")



- {claim 111} wherein the upper and lower casings comprise grooves and/or protrusions and the side casing comprises corresponding protrusions and/or grooves for effecting the press-fit or snap-fit connections (figure 1, reference 11b; column 3, lines 8-30; note disclosure of "key" and "keyway")
- {claim 112} wherein the upper and lower casings and the side casing have a generally circular configuration, and comprise an exit area through which a recording medium disposed on the spool can exit (figure 1, references 28 and 30)
- {claim 127} a cassette comprising a hollow spool for holding a recording medium, and a sprocket disposed inside at least a part of the spool and driveable to rotate the spool for unwinding recording medium therefrom, wherein a surface of the sprocket in contact with an interior surface of the spool comprises a plurality of protrusions which bear on the inside surface of the spool (figure 1, reference 24; note protrusions on hollow spool of reel 18)

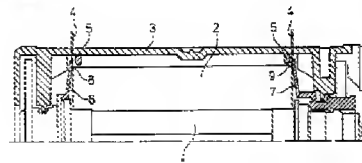
- {claim 132} a recording medium cassette comprising a casing and having a wound roll of recording medium disposed in the casing which roll can unwind such that an end of the recording medium can exit the casing (figure 1), wherein the cassette further comprises a leaf spring disposed on the casing and oriented to act on the recording medium to exert a force in a direction towards the center of the roll of recording medium (figure 1, reference 26)

Claim 113 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulz et al (US Pat 5921494).

Schulz et al discloses:

- {claim 113} A cassette for a recording medium comprising an exit region for recording medium (figures 3-4), and first and second flanges disposed at the exit region (figure 1, references 6-7; abstract), each flange comprising one or more grooves adapted to receive an edge of a recording medium and allow the edge to pass along the grooves (figure 1; when combined in function with encircling ribs 4-5)

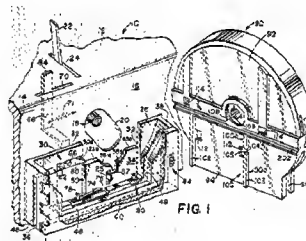
**Fig 1**



Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bundschuh (US Pat 3547373).

Bundschuh discloses:

- {claim 114} a cassette for a recording medium comprising a casing (figure 1, reference 90), wherein one region of the casing has a rib on its exterior surface (figure 1, references 100 and 102 and horizontal rib near reference 202), which rib is adapted to slide in a groove of a device in which the cassette can be inserted (column 4, lines 4-22), the rib comprising a projection (figure 1, reference 100b) adapted to latch into a detent of a device in which the cassette can be inserted (figure 1, reference 60a; column 4, lines 4-22)



Claims 122-125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dobring et al (US Pat 4822189).

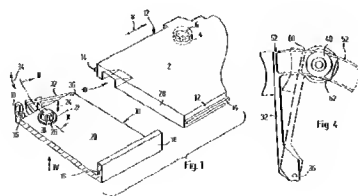
Dobring et al discloses:

- {claim 122} a cassette adapted to be received in a printing device (figure 1, reference 2; column 1, lines 5-7), the cassette comprising one of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion capable of interacting with the other of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion of a printing device

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(figure 1, reference 30 shows ramp; figure 1, reference 22 shows resiliently movable portion), such that during insertion of the cassette the ramp causes movement of the resiliently moveable portion from a position in which it would otherwise prevent insertion of the cassette into a position allowing insertion of the cassette (column 3, lines 15-30)

- {claim 123} wherein the cassette comprises the ramp and further comprises a detent into which the resiliently movable portion can latch following insertion of the cassette (figure 1, reference 6 shows detent)
- {claim 124} wherein the detent is located such that when a resiliently movable portion of the printing device has latched into the detent, the printing device is operable to print using the cassette (column 2, lines 15-40)
- {claim 125} wherein the detent is configured such that the said resiliently movable portion is movable following insertion of the cassette into the printing device to allow removal of a cassette from the printing device (column 3, lines 30-40)





Johanson et al discloses:

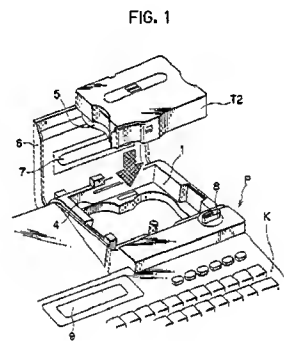
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Okuchi et al discloses:

- {claim 133} a set of cassettes for holding a recording medium, each cassette comprising an upper portion and a lower portion disposed apart

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a distance and joined together by attachment to a side portion having a width corresponding to the distance, thereby enabling a roll of recording medium to be held between the upper and lower portions with the width of the recording medium being oriented substantially parallel to the width of the side portion, wherein each cassette has a side portion of a different width (figure 1; abstract)



The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

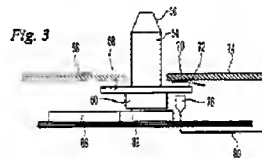
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 137-138 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Day et al (US Pat 6812943).

Day et al discloses:

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- {claim 137} An ink ribbon cassette (figure 2, reference 24) comprising: a supply spool for holding a roll of ink ribbon (figure 2, reference 46); a take-up spool onto which ink ribbon unwound from the supply spool is wound (figure 2, reference 48); a driveable sprocket arranged to rotate the supply spool for rewinding unwound ribbon onto the supply spool (figure 3, reference 54); and a spring disposed to act axially on the sprocket for maintaining tension of the ink ribbon between the supply and take-up spools (figure 3, reference 60 is spring clutch; column 9, lines 9-26)



- {claim 138} An ink ribbon cassette comprising: a hollow supply spool for holding a roll of ink ribbon; and a driveable sprocket at least part of which is disposed inside the supply spool to rotate the supply spool for rewinding unwound ribbon onto the supply spool (figures 2-3; column 9, lines 9-26), wherein the end of the sprocket that is not disposed inside the supply spool comprises an inner cylinder (figure 3, reference 68) and an outer cylinder (figure 3, reference 62), the inner cylinder extending further in a direction away from the supply spool than the outer cylinder (figure 3)

### **Conclusion**

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following are art related to a single coil tape/ribbon cartridge: Miller (US Pat 5255039); Anderson et al (US Pat 3643777); Manico et al (US Pat 5581320); Mangan (US Pat 3945584); Zander et al (US Pat 5295634); Hiraguchi (US PgPub 20030146329); Yamamoto (US Pat 5949527); Zander et al (US Pat 5251839); Greene (US Pat 5215273); Earnhart et al (US Pat 5522563); Yamaguchi (US Pat 5730536); Nonomura (US Pat 6955318).

The following are art related to an ink ribbon cartridge: Abe (JP Pat 06238977 A); Okumiya (JP Pat 06122241); Fujinawa (JP Pat 06064270 A); Katsuno (US Pat 4978240); Hwang (US Pat 4986678); Iima (US Pat 5393149); Kondo (US Pat 5620265).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEONARD S. LIANG whose telephone number is (571)272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. S. L./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2853  
08/14/10

/Stephen D Meier/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2853